

Year: 2018-19

RI President: Barry Rassin from East Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas.



BE THE INSPIRATION

Theme: Be the Inspiration

Convention held at Hamburg, Germany, on June 1-5, with ? delegates.

District Governor: Wendy Protheroe, Brisbane High Rise

District Conference location: Brisbane

Club President: Ron Heitmann

Exchange Student:

Inbound: Antonio Florio, Denmark Host parents: Stephens, Dumlaos, Mitchells, Inkpens

Outbound: Zoe Roetteler, to Germany; Hannah Quick, to France

PHFs awarded: Patricia Riley

Police Officer of the Year: Not held this year.

From the outset, this year was destined to be significant. Our club was to become 60 years old - which is older than some in the club (thankfully), but younger than many.

Weather issues in Australia and overseas have been our concerns. Early in the year we donated to the drought relief appeal operated by District 9630, south of the Brisbane River. Our priorities for such assistance were based around the need to send cash, not goods, so that the money could be used within the local towns to keep their businesses in operation. The scheme operates on a system of vouchers which can be used to purchase goods or pay bills in local businesses, which actually gives the funds a multiplying effect and benefits more people. In addition, children can be registered to receive books as gifts on a regular basis to give them a diversion, and some funds are used to facilitate community events to provide all locals with a diversion. In addition to that, we purchased Shelter Boxes, for use as and where needed.

Later in the year, areas in far north Queensland that were in drought were suddenly in flood. As a result, many stations that were operating with a low number of cattle due to lack of feed suddenly found themselves with dead cattle due to hypothermia because the place was flooded. Townsville also experienced record flooding at the same time - it just rained and poured!. RAWCS funds were set up to support the drought relief and flood relief needs mentioned above. Our club looked closely at the options for giving, and resolved to provide additional funds for the drought / flood relief to the Longreach Rotary Club, whose members had been managing cash donations to property owners for many years.

Fundraising through events like the Pine Rivers Show, and Bunnings Sausage Sizzles were successful, and kept our coffers topped up. The Bunnings store at Lawnton was closed down and rebuilt during the year, and it will open again in mid-June, so we are looking forward to helping with their opening events.

Two members - Greg Bushnell, and Kevin Davis - had developed a strong liaison with the people at MND and Me, a charity that supports people with MND. We found that this charity was particularly keen to work with us to conduct a fundraising event. They worked on a Charity Golf Day at Wantima for around October. Our area had been very dry for a long time as well, but a couple of weeks before the event it started to rain - very well. As a result, the event was postponed for almost a month. We feared that many intending participants would pull out. Fortunately that was not the case, and a very successful day was held. The event itself raised about \$12,000, which was an excellent result in itself. We had a number of good sponsors. In addition, the Clem Jones Foundation, which focuses on brain related diseases such as MND, donated \$15,000. The MND and Me Foundation also contributed \$15,000. After our club's commitment to donate \$5,000, we had raised some \$47,000 for MND research by the Queensland Brain Institute at UQ. That was a fantastic outcome by any measure. Neither of our members are golfers, but we received many complements for the way the day was run. Congratulations to Greg and Kevin!

Following this event, we invited a representative of the Queensland Brain Institute to speak at the club. Some months later we were able to make a vocational visit to the Queensland Brain Institute at UQ. Food was ordered to be delivered to the Institute, and we obtained a low cost bus to take us there, courtesy of Gary Fulton's involvement with Grace Lutheran College. While many of us did not understand the details of the research, it was educational to visit such a leading edge laboratory complex.

In years gone by we had been instrumental in developing a Spitfire collision memorial near Young's Crossing. This year was the 75th anniversary of that mid-air collision and the RAAF association wanted to do something to mark the occasion. Our club, particularly through Brian Haynes, was able to refresh them on the events surrounding the memorial, and we were able to take part in the ceremonies of the occasion. That was a moving time for those involved.

Early in the year we had two - yes, two - Exchange students depart for points overseas. Both of these girls had been our candidates for NYSF in the previous years so we knew that they were bright, responsible young women. Hannah Quick went to France, while Zoe Roetteler went to Germany. We are sure they are enjoying themselves. Of course, that means that we will have two inbound students, and they will arrive in July. We always encourage the parents of these students to join Rotary, and it was great to learn that Zoe's parents have joined the Brisbane Rotary Club, as they had recently moved to reside in the city.

Two students were sponsored to NYSF this year. Erin Brown and Paris Solman were very grateful for the opportunity. As do all of the students, they returned with eyes opened to a bigger world of science than they had previously experienced. They were also considering career changes after seeing what is on offer to them.

The Interact club has continued to operate well. They have continued with the birthing kit project, and they also ran a Mocktail night. Our members tried to make a booking but it was sold out - so it is proving popular. Over the past years we have often had a Bunnings day on the same day as we are working at the Pine Rivers Show. That gives the Interact club an opportunity to hone their food service skills, and we donate a well rounded up amount of money to them in return. It works well for both groups. Over time, we have developed a reputation for being reliable, and have occasionally been asked to operate a Bunnings day at very short notice. This has given us extra opportunities to interact with the community.

Although the year has been busy, we managed a couple of social events as well. We enjoyed a barbecue at the Stephens' residence, and a cluster breakfast at Bullocky Rest. Funds from these events were also directed to the drought / flood relief at Longreach. We made up a table at the trivia night run by the Inner Wheel club, and that was enjoyable as usual. Our table managed to win - even though the brains of the club could not attend.

The club was successful in obtaining a grant from the Dickson federal electorate. We used that money to repaint our van externally and internally. In addition we purchased a good sized marquee to assist with our food preparation at the Show. The gas equipment is being serviced, after its use in

the van for the past 24 years.

We have also secured District Grant funds to assist with a local project called Brave Hearts, which supports young mothers who are still attending school, and inspires them to not think that they are isolated or rejected in some way.

Over the past few years the old Petrie Paper Mill has been demolished, and the area is to become a university precinct. The University of the Sunshine Coast will open its doors there at the beginning of the 2020 year. Our club has had speakers from USC at our meeting, and we have taken steps to learn about activities that involve Rotary clubs on the Sunshine Coast, so that we might be able to become involved with USC Moreton Bay. A number of possibilities are presenting themselves.

For the past couple of years we have been aware that our Rotary district will be combining with the two Districts to the south of ours in 2021-22. Changes have been occurring so that our District can become aligned with the new District. Most of the change so far has been on the financial front. For example, the club's semi-annual dues for January were paid by the District, which resulted in our being able to transfer those funds from the General account to the Community Service account - more to donate.

A few years ago the club initiated an award called "Club person of the Year", to identify the most outstanding and supportive club member for the Rotary year. The awardee is determined by a secret vote of club members. The award is presented at the Changeover night at the beginning of the next Rotary year. This year we had a dead heat, with two very worthy winners. Our Community Service Director, Tricia Riley, was one, and our Youth Service Director, Jo Mitchell, was the other. Len Deverall has, for a number of years, made clocks based on the Rotary logo for presentation at such times. He has continued this work, while supported by other club members as his health wanes. Thank you for your work, Len, Ray, and Les.

Some members attended the Meals on Wheels Christmas function. President Ron was surprised to be asked to receive a certificate of appreciation for the shelving our club had donated through a District Grant earlier in the year. Meals on Wheels is "our baby", and we will help them in any way we can.

And then in January, we were informed that our club was to receive an award at the Dickson Australia Day celebrations. It was again Ron's pleasure to attend the Citizenship Ceremony at Samford to receive the Dickson Community Group of the Year Award on behalf of the club. Congratulations to all club members for your efforts. The citation read:

Rotary Club of Pine Rivers – Community Group of the Year

The 2019 community group of the year is an organisation that has worked hard for our district for many years, fundraising and providing services to support those in need.

One of their well-known services is a food van that has operated in the Pine Rivers area since 1994. The van is hired by organisations to assist with catering and has been a great asset for the community.

This organisation has also assisted a number of different causes in 2018 including fundraising to support villages and communities in need in Papua New Guinea.

Another fantastic initiative closer to home, was their charity golf day held at Wantima Golf Club in November 2018. This event raised over \$47,000 for the Queensland Brain Institute. A phenomenal effort.

The event took place despite poor weather requiring it to be rescheduled from the original date at the last minute, effectively meaning the volunteers had to organise it twice.

These are just some of the achievements of this organisation over the past 12 months.

I am pleased to recognise the Rotary Club of Pine Rivers by awarding them Dickson Community Group of the Year for 2019.



Ross Barnett, Qld Racing Integrity Commissioner, guest speaker for our 60th anniversary function



Outbound YEP students, Hannah Quick, Zoe Roetteler; Youth Director Jo Mitchell, Inbound student, Antonio Florio, and rebounder Anja Anders



Tricia and Jo receive their club award from Len



Yvonne Chapman, Ron Heitmann, and Cath Tonks from Peter Dutton's office at Meals on Wheels.



David Anders, Jo Ehrlich (Chair), Ron, Anja Anders after her Exchange year



Antonio from Denmark